

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. That...that...that answers the question. And I think you answered it probably the best you can under the circumstances. I had made some comments about what had happened with reference to the committee gathering. I didn't hear everything Senator Bromm said, but Senator Bromm generally is so meticulous he probably gave it correctly. But if there is a difference between what I said and what he said, it's that his memory was just a little shaky, but he gave it to the best of his recollection. But here's the main point that I think is even more troublesome. When Ben Novicoff came before that committee, and he's the presiding judge of the Workers' Comp Court, and he attacked, in general, all the lawyers who represent injured people before him, it made it, in my mind, impossible for him to ever be impartial or for an attorney to feel that he can get an impartial hearing before Judge "Novocaine". And here's what he said at the hearing, and it's at page 102 of the rough draft of the hearing, March 8, 1993, before the Business and Labor Committee. Quote, when you get right down to it, there are really only two legitimate players in this game and they are labor and industry. The task force worked hard, there is agreement by the true representatives of employees, the AFL-CIO, and the true representatives of industry, the chambers of commerce and employer groups. First of all, how can he say, as a judge, that he certifies an organization which is a lobbying group that represents less than 7 percent of the workers of the state as the true representatives of employees. Are those not represented by AFL-CIO not employees? This is the judge certifying AFL-CIO, and I think it's totally inappropriate. As Senator Schimek pointed out, there are some chambers of commerce and other business people not represented by the chambers of commerce who don't agree with 757. So the judge made statements that not only are factually inaccurate, but they put the judge in a position that I think is unethical under the canons of judicial ethics. That's what I believe. I think he was totally wrong. I would hate to be an attorney who had to appear before a person who's made the scathing allegations, accusations and demeaning remarks that he made about the attorneys who represent injured workers. I'm sure employers have lawyers that represent their interests, but he didn't talk about them, just the defense lawyers, all of them. He didn't allow for exceptions, Senator Landis. And I know you're only responsible for your comments, but I'm going by what Judge "Novocaine" said. He went on, on page 7...on page 102. No outside groups were even permitted to be a part of the negotiations in Oregon, it was labor and